



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 16th February 2025



### Matthew 5:1-12 Peacemakers, persecuted and put upon

#### Warm Up

Have you ever stepped in and broken up a fight? Or stopped an argument? Was it easy? Did you need to be brave? Have you ever challenged a bully? How did that go? How did you feel?

#### Background and context

The final section of this passage the last three Beatitudes are all on the same theme; peace and conflict. We live in a world full of conflict. Spiritually humanity is in conflict with God, yet it is Jesus, the Prince of Peace who changes that. He has brought peace between man and God and calls us to bring peace to this world, to our families, our neighbours, our friends and to strangers. At the same time He knows we will live in conflict because of our desire for peace. There will be those who persecute believers. Jesus calls on us to rejoice because we have already obtained our reward in heaven.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

*READ Matthew 5:1-12. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?*

1. Why is Jesus given the name Prince of Peace? How does this reveal God's nature?
2. What does it mean to be a peacemaker? What does that look like in our lives?
3. Read v10-11. Jesus reveals the cost of being a peacemaker. What is this cost?
4. Why do you think that people persecute those that seek peace?
5. Jesus prepares His followers for the certainty of hardship and suffering as they bring peace (Jesus) to the world. What do you think "a great Reward in Heaven" means?
6. Look up the following verses: How were the "prophets who were before you." treated?  
1 Kings 22:24, 2 Kings 2:23, Jeremiah 18:18-19, 20:10, 37:11-13, Amos 2:11-12, Amos 7:10-13
7. Why does following Jesus often lead to rejection by others, hardship or persecution?

#### Discipleship and Application

8. Discuss ways that you and your Life Group can bring peace/ the peace of Jesus to those around you in the community?
9. Spend time looking at the [OPEN DOORS WEBSITE](#) to see how you can effectively pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.